

Contents

Day 1 Australia
Day 2 Dr. Carol Lynn
Patterson

Day 3 Bahamas

Day 4 Bangladesh

Day 5 Cameroon

Day 6 Canada

Day 7 Chile

Day 8 Colombia

Day 9 Dr. Cynthia L. Hale

Day 10 Cuba

Day 11 Dominican Republic

Day 12 Ethiopia

Day 13 Ghana

Day 14 Guyana

Day 15 India

Day 16 Rev. Thurselle C. Williams

Day 17 Italy

Day 18 Jamaica

Day 19 Kenya

Day 20 Liberia

Day 21 Madagascar

Day 22 Malawi

Day 23 Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight

Day 24 Mauritania

Day 25 Nigeria

Day 26 South Africa

Day 27 South Sudan

Day 28 Spain

Day 29 Togo

Day 30 Dr. Gina M. Stewart

Day 31 Zimbabwe

Breaking the Chains of the Trokosi System

By Rev. Emmett L. Dunn

he Trokosi system, practiced in some parts of Africa, remains a grave injustice that subjects young girls to abuse and indentured servitude under the guise of tradition and religion. These girls, often sent to serve at shrines as restitution for their families' perceived wrongdoings, face a life of exploitation and are denied the dignity and opportunities every human deserves.

As followers of Christ, we are called to stand against such practices, championing the cause of liberation and justice for these vulnerable children. Let us fervently pray for the dismantling of the Trokosi system and for the safety and healing of those who have endured its oppression.

We also celebrate Lott Carey's partnership with Alfred Street Baptist Church in addressing this critical issue. Together, we are working to empower indigenous communities to offer opportunities for these young women to reintegrate into society, providing them with education, vocational training, and spiritual support.

I call on the larger global community to condemn this harmful practice and commit to being voices for justice and agents of change. May our collective efforts lead to a future where every girl is free to live a life of dignity, purpose, and hope.

Prayer Points and Our Call to Action:

- Pray for the liberation and healing of young girls trapped in the Trokosi system.
- Ask God to strengthen organizations and communities working to bring about systemic change.
- Pray for the reintegration and empowerment of survivors that they may thrive in freedom.
- Call on the global community to unite in condemning practices that perpetuate abuse and injustice.

Rev. Emmett L. Dunn is Publisher and Editor of Lott Carey Herald and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey.

Credits for Graphics & Photos

Cover, Pages 5, 6, 12, 17, 18, 24, 30: Mike Tucker via AI tools.

Pages 2, 3: Lott Carey.

Pages 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31: Pexels.

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Editorial Assistant Christopher Tucker

Published by Lott Carey 8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 1245 Landover, MD 20785-2230 Phone: 301-429-3300

Current and back issues of the Lott Carey Herald are available online at LottCarey.org/Resources

There is no defense for ritual sexual servitude; it's time to end this bondage

By Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless and please the widow's cause. Isaiah 1:17

oward Thurman said, find what makes you come alive then do it!
In the year 2000, I first heard the peculiar term human trafficking. Initially it piqued my interest but did not prick my heart. But the more Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley shared, the more I needed to know. As he continued to present his concerns, he used another term, modern-day slavery.

The term immediately captured my attention, creating a level of curiosity that could not be ignored. Over the last twenty years, human trafficking arrests my attention in all its forms — child marriages, the Devadasi system in India; ritualistic sexual servitude (Trokosi) in Gha-

na; money marriages in Nigeria; cultural marriages or bride kidnappings in Central Asia and Africa; Khadijah in the Middle East; Mujeres de la Vida in Latin America or Geisha Girls in Asian communities.

Some practices have evolved as strongholds on communities while others have devolved due to changing social norms and legal regulations. Lott Carey continues to produce some of the most knowledgeable thought leaders on these issues. Many of the most committed conversation partners on modern-day slavery are Lott Carey lead-



ers. These women have consistently created safe spaces for increasing awareness, advocacy, and abolition around human trafficking.

Lott Carey women are using their voices to make a difference. During the 31 Days of Prayer new voices will emerge. Serving and learning together has provided key insights regarding community organizing while standing against the sexual exploitation of women and girls. Unearthing creative ways to address this ever-evolving issue in the global village led the WISE team leaders to submit an application to the United Nations to become an official Non Governmental Organization. The process is long but it will be worth the wait.

The trafficking pandemic affects individuals and societies in various ways around the world. In particular, we recognize specific issues like Trokosi, aka ritualized sexual servitude and wives of the gods. Whatever the name, it places religious rituals over human rights. Custom and culture allow human wrongs to trump human rights, with girls as young as five serving as the atonement for the crimes of their family members. It's criminal, or should be.

All these global practices subjugate girls and women and raise concerns around ethical issues, human rights, and other systemic issues related to victimization. When addressing these systems of exploitation, it is essential to draw connections with broader themes of social

Continued on page 6

Ritual sexual servitude: A complex and cruel tradition puts culture before women

By Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams Jr.

he parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18 presents several key themes relevant to the kind of "heart work" needed, particularly as it relates to the experiences of marginalized women and their shared struggle for justice.

It is evident, via a womanist lens, the persistent widow knew the law and the rights she was entitled to by the ketubah, the marriage contract of the day. With a sanctified imagination I can hear her demanding that the unjust judge be a good steward over the law granting her rights and the rights of others like her.

Empowering women via legal protocol shifts the praxis of law and our perspective on human wrongs, like ritualistic sexual servitude, while enforcing human rights. If we read between the lines in the text examining the cultural context, we discover the law of the land was intentional about protecting widows . . . much like the laws today regarding human trafficking.

The persistent women of WISE embody the same perseverance of the persistent widow in Luke. Resilience and resistance seeking justice for those left out and let down by the legal system are wise hallmarks for us all.

The persistent widow illustrates not only what tenacity looks like but she also serves as a catalyst for examining broader theological implications surrounding justice through the Christ like lens of an ever living, ever loving, ever giving God.



The United Nations protocol, adopted in 2000 as a primary legal instrument for addressing transnational crime, has become the world's primary legal instrument to combat human trafficking. The UN protocol fosters a worldview, without borders, so we can clearly see our responsibility to our sacred siblings in the global village. The relationship between ritualistic sexual servitude and human trafficking is complex and deeply concerning. Both phenomena involve the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, often women and children, and are rooted in power imbalances, economic desperation, and societal injustices.

Mobilizing WISE women to work against ritualistic sexual servitude, aka Trokosi, involves a combination of education, community engagement, and empowerment strategies. In the gospel of Luke, resilience as resistance is a common motif. WISE continues to find their flow in radical resistance as an empowerment strategy.

As WISE moves the needle, I believe God is pleased.

Psalm 118:24 reminds us that staying in good trouble and fighting the good fight is the Lord's doing. In verse 23 it tells us it is marvelous in our eyes.

Let us never forget this is the day the Lord has made — we will fight, we will win, and we will be made glad in it. Lott Carey mag-

Continued on page 6



Day | Australia: Exodus 3:7-10

ear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love and concern for the women and girls of Australia.

We pray for those experiencing ritualistic indentured servitude or other types of bondage.

Lord, remember the Aboriginal women who have experienced generations of abuse and discrimination.

We pray for deliverance and restoration for your suffering children. We pray for opportunities for them to hear and receive the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ. Please strengthen their faith in You so that they do not lose hope.

Lord God Almighty, we pray for restorative justice for the oppressed. We also pray that You will convict the hearts of those who oppress and abuse women and children, especially those using religion as a tool for oppression. May they also come to know You, the One True God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 17:3; 14:6). May all be transformed by his love.

Gracious Father, we pray for protection and provisions for those working to eradicate human trafficking in Australia and to recover those trapped in all forms of bondage. We pray for encouragement, empowerment, resources, and support for those working to save, restore, and transform the lives of women in bondage. We pray that You will raise up ministries by Your Spirit dedicated to responding to their cries in your name. May Your gospel light, love, grace, and power transform lives through Your servants in Jesus' name. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Brenda McBorrough President, Lott Carey WISE

Minister of Missions Mount Olive Baptist Church Centreville, Virginia



'Bind the spirit of ignorance that has anyone in the 21st century holding on to ancient practices'

By Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson

iberating God, we — Women In Service Everywhere — bind the spirit of Trokosi in the name of Jesus. Your story of salvation and liberation is rooted and grounded with setting captives free not only in the Old Testament Book of Exodus but also in the Gospel of Luke when Jesus announces the purpose of His earthly ministry. We come boldly before Your throne of grace on behalf of women who are caught in the grip of ritualistic servitude in West Africa and around the world. We bind the spiritual wickedness in high places that deceitfully has families believing that dehumanizing their own daughters will somehow protect them from evil.

Delivering God, we bind the spirit of ignorance that has anyone in the 21st century holding on to ancient practices, believing that doing a family member wrong can somehow make them righteous. We loose Your love that casts out all fear in place of centuries-old rituals that require families to dedicate a virgin daughter to the dehumanizing lifestyle of slavery, statutory rape, and starvation. We pray that You would deliver families from fear that they will be cursed when they dignify their daughters.

Empowering God, we loose courage. We pray that You would give families the courage to break the cycle of enslaving (kosi) their young daughters to the gods (tro). We pray that You would give the shrine priests courage to let go of traditionalism and to embrace new and legal ways to fund their shrines.

Saving God, we ask that You would flood the lands of Ghana, Togo, and Benin with missionaries and evangelists speaking Your truth to the people, who need to know that Jesus alone provides atonement for sin.

Just God, we pray that You send prophets speaking Your truth to the powers who seek to maintain the status quo. Please bring Your justice and Your mercy to bear on those who need it.

Healing and Reconciling God, as You release Your daughters from the grip of Trokosi, please make them whole. Heal them spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and financially. Release those who gave them over to this horrific practice and remove the guilt that would block families from reuniting.

Prayer-Answering God, in the spirit of the prophet Isaiah, WISE — way more than two or three — say to You: "Here, we are. Send us to stop the tragedy of valuing horrific rituals over human rights!" We thank and praise You in advance for hearing and answering our prayers. In the name of Jesus, we claim Your "yes" by faith. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson Pastor, Author, and Teacher Founder/President Setting the Captives Free Ministries Somerset, New Jersey



Human Wrong vs. Human Rights

Continued from page 3

justice and human dignity.

The Lott Carey Anti-Trafficking Campaign keeps conversations going around the many facets of human trafficking and in the forefront of religious communities. Launching innovative initiatives such as "Jumping4Justice" provides resources for mental health while mobilizing the younger generation. Partnering with the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Women at the United Nations prepare us to do the heart work needed to eradicate human trafficking.

Like the persistent widow in Luke 18, we will not give up and we will not give in.

Collaborating on the "Thursdays in Black" initiative is a key initiative. Educating communities about the global impact of harmful cultural practices, while promoting alternative narratives that champion the value of women and girls is the goal of the Lott Carey social media initiative.

Mobilizing WISE women against Trokosi is what we do. With resilience and creative resistance, we move one step closer to eradicating gender injustice. In the words of the singer-songwriter Montel Jordan — "This Is How We Do It."

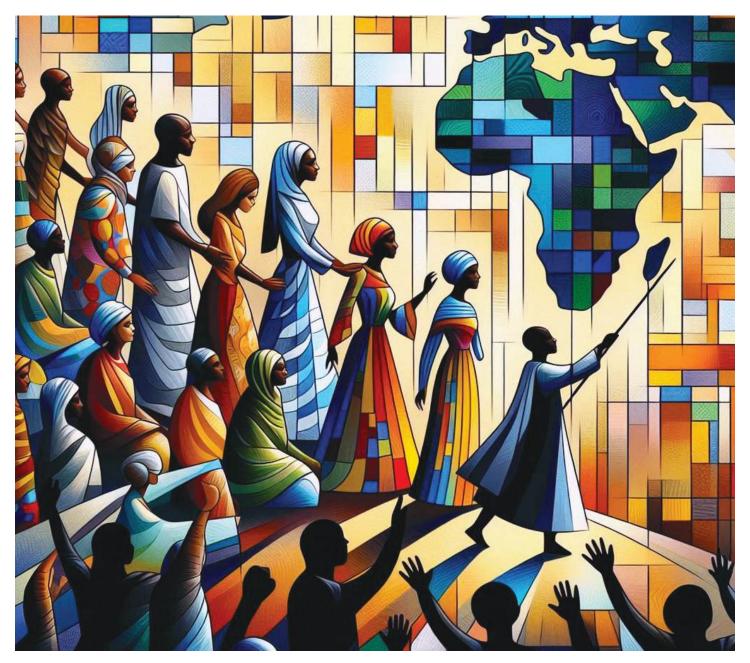
Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton is President Emerita of Lott Carey WISE and the Minister of Global Impact and Justice at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey.

Complex and Cruel Tradition

Continued from page 3

nifies what the Lord is doing. Be clear: human wrongs must never trump human rights.

Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams Jr is President of Lott Carey and Senior Pastor of Convent Avenue Baptist Church in New York, New York.



Day 3 Bahamas: Romans 8:28

oly and Transforming God, we come before You, acknowledging the sacred and the divine within every woman and girl. We see their struggles, their resilience, and their untold stories, and we believe in the power of transformation that comes from You.

God of liberation, we lift up those who have been confined by ritualist servitude, where distorted beliefs are used as chains rather than paths to freedom. We pray for the women and girls in the Bahamas and beyond who have been coerced, manipulated, and silenced. Surround them with Your protective love, and let their spirits know that freedom, healing, and restoration are possible.

God of justice, we ask that You expose the lies of patriarchy and power cloaked in religiosity. Shine Your truth on systems of oppression that distort Your Word and exploit Your daughters. Grant us courage to confront these injustices with wisdom, grace, and unwavering faith.

within every woman and girl. We see their struggles, their resilience, and their untold stories, and we believe in the power of transformation that comes from You.

God of transformation, empower the church to embrace a ministry of liberation that is informed by compassion, cultural understanding, and a commitment to justice. Help us to create spaces where women and girls can heal, where their voices are heard, and where their gifts are celebrated. Let our prayers be infused with hope and our actions with

purpose as we work toward a world where freedom and flourishing are available to all.

In Your transformative power we trust and in the name of Jesus, the Liberator, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Littycia Clay-Crawley Pastor New Life Community Church King William, Virginia Moderator, Pamunkey Baptist Association

Day 4 Bangladesh: Micah 6:8

ear God, we come to You with heavy hearts, lifting up the young girls of Bangladesh who are facing challenges beyond their control. Please wrap them in Your love and protection, guiding them through the darkness of human trafficking, child marriage, and gender discrimination.

Grant them strength and resilience to rise above their circumstances. May they find hope in their dreams and courage in their hearts to pursue an education, love, and freedom. Surround them with supportive families and communities who uplift them, and inspire leaders to advocate for their rights and safety. Help the world to see their worth and potential, breaking the chains of oppression that hold them back.

Shower Your blessings upon them, leading them to a future filled with opportunities, dignity, and empowerment. Remind them that they are cherished, valued, and capable of greatness.

Amen.

Dr. Liza Chowdhry Founder Paterson Healing Collective Paterson, New Jersey

Co-Founder Reimaginng Justice Passaic, New Jersey



racious God, You are the Creator of all things.

The one who created all things well. Lord You are a Father to the fatherless and a Mother to the motherless. The Alpha and Omega. The start and finish of every day. The beginning and end of everything.

As we intercede on behalf of women and girls in Cameroon, we beseech You to help us bear this burden.

Many advocates speak out against practices exploiting individuals, emphasizing the importance of dignity and mutual respect in relationships while continually promoting education and awareness about consent and women's rights.

Numerous non-government organizations and activists work to address issues related to gender-based violence and exploitation in Cameroon, yet it persists.

Lord, help us to advocate for the rights of women and children, seeking to end practices that are harmful and dehumanizing.

Gracious God, You are our provider. Give us the wisdom and knowledge to increase our efforts promoting education and awareness. Help us challenge any customs that do not align with your Word. We believe You can do anything and everything but fail. Binding and agreeing, sealing this prayer we consider it done—in the mighty name of Jesus, we shout Amen!

Dr. Moala K Bannavti Postdoctoral Fellow Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts



Day 6 Canada: Isaiah 41:1

ear Creator, we come together in solidarity, seeking Your guidance and strength to combat the heartbreaking reality of human trafficking in our beloved Canada. We lift up the voices of those who suffer in silence, enduring unimaginable pain and exploitation.

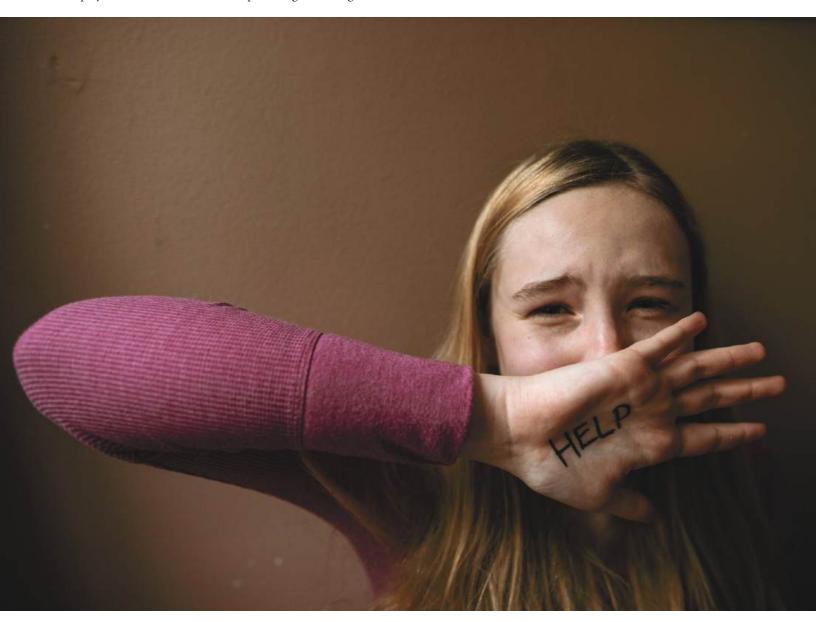
May Your light shine upon the victims, bringing them hope and healing. Grant them the courage to seek help and surround them with compassionate hearts ready to support their journey toward freedom. Give their family's comfort and strength until their loved one's whereabouts are known.

We pray awareness and education help us recognize the signs of

trafficking and take action to protect the vulnerable. Inspire our leaders and policymakers to create effective laws and support systems that ensure safety and justice for all.

Let us unite in empathy and determination, fostering a culture of respect and dignity where every person is valued and safe from harm. May love and compassion prevail, guiding us towards a future free from exploitation and suffering. Amen.

Sis. Lisa Lohnes Member Atlantic Baptist Women Atlantic Provinces, Canada





Day 7 *Chile: Mark 5:25-34*



ear God, creator of life and justice:

We pray for the lives of so many women and girls who suffer in silence, in anonymity, abused and mistreated. Have compassion on thousands of women who day after day cry bitterly because they are prisoners in pain. Even in their desolation, we ask that Your angels guard their lives, protect their souls, and give them hope.

Lord Jesus, we pray for Chile, where families and women from other nations arrive seeking a better life. Many times, poverty and the need to survive subject women to excessive exploitation and abuse. Have mercy on them.

We ask, beloved Lord, that the communities of faith, the various congregations in Chile and those who exercise leadership, may be peacemakers and build bridges that contribute to eradicating this mistreatment.

Help us also to denounce abuse and demonstrate against all degrading and undignified actions. God of life, give us all more love, more compassion and mercy, to empathize with the suffering of these women and intercede every day for them. We are convinced that, if we touch Your mantle, You know who needs Your grace and compassion.

We intercede for these abused and exploited women, just like the woman with the issue of blood. We are thousands of Christian women in our country and in the world who touch your sacred mantle, so that life and mercy may flow. We ask, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Alejandra N. Riveros Martinez Doctora(c)en Communicacion Academica-Publicista-Periodista Santiago, Chile



ear God, we come to You with heavy hearts, seeking Your light and guidance in the face of injustice. We lift up those who are trapped in the darkness of ritualistic sexual servitude, especially in Colombia. May they find hope and strength amidst their suffering. We pray for their safety and liberation that they may be freed from the chains of exploitation and harm.

Surround them with Your love, and may they feel the support of compassionate advocates fighting tirelessly for their rights.

Grant wisdom and courage to leaders, policymakers, and organizations working to combat this horrific practice. Help them create systems of justice that protect the vulnerable and hold perpetrators accountable.

May we all be moved to act with empathy, raising our voices against exploitation and standing in solidarity with survivors. Let us be instruments of peace, working together to build a world where every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

In Your mercy, we seek healing for those affected and a future where such injustices are no longer tolerated. Amen.

Sis. Luz Escobar Sergeant (Retired) Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Paterson, New Jersey





Day 9 *Isaiah 58:6*

'The psychological effects are devastating'

By Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale

everyone, especially those who are oppressed in any way:

We are praying today for the women and girls who are impacted by ritualistic servitude, especially those who are being victimized by the practice of Trokosi. Young girls and their parents have been manipulated to believe that they should become "wives of gods" to make amends for wrongs committed by members of her family.

oving and compassionate God, who cares for

The psychological effects of this are devastating.

Parents feel trapped by a tradition that causes them to sacrifice their daughters. Young girls are made to believe they are responsible for sins they did not commit, devalued by their parents and those who they are forced to serve, and are trapped in an endless cycle of abuse. Those who perpetuate this oppression dare to believe that they have the right to enslave innocent women and girls for their own selfish gain.

God, we pray for the enlightenment of the minds of those who are a part of this culture and are darkened in their understanding. Demolish every stronghold that sets itself up against the knowledge that You created women and girls to be free and to live their lives with dignity. Empower parents and all members of the culture to reject this and all other forms of abuse and mistreatment of women and girls. Help parents to love their daughters and affirm their worth and dignity providing them with the spiritual, emotional and mental health resources they need to heal.

Finally, God, give us the courage to make You known to those who do not know You and to advocate for an end to this evil practice. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is Founder and Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia.



Day 10 Cuba: Psalm 103:6



Compassionate Spirit,

We come together in this moment to acknowledge the painful realities faced by individuals ensnared in the cycle of exploitation and ritualistic servitude. Our hearts ache for those who suffer in silence, stripped of their dignity and agency.

May we shine a light on the shadows where these injustices occur, fostering awareness and understanding in our communities. Let our voices rise in unity, advocating for the rights of all marginalized individuals.

We ask for strength and resilience for survivors that they may find the courage to reclaim their lives and stories. May our collective efforts contribute to society where respect, consent, and compassion are the cornerstones of every interaction.

Let us commit to supporting organizations and initiatives that work tirelessly to end exploitation and provide refuge, healing, and justice to those in need. Together, let us build a future where every individual is honored and free. Amen.

Evangelist Apollonia Villanueva Fellowship Covenant Church The Bronx, New York



Day 11 Dominican Republic: John 10:10

eavenly Father, I come before You with a broken heart. I lift up the children in the Dominican Republic who are victims of trafficking.

Lord, You see their innocence stolen, their voices silenced, and their spirits crushed. We call on You, the God of justice and mercy, to intervene in their lives and bring freedom and healing.

Father, child abuse, neglect, exploitation, child labor, bodily harm, child marriage, and other forms of harm against children are among the greatest evils in the world. This is happening all around us. This is happening in the Dominican Republic. They prey on the young and innocent. And the poor.

I say this prayer for the protection of children, for an end to all harm against children, for the children who remain trapped in this nightmare.

Give strength to the people who investigate and prosecute traffickers. Encourage them when they are weary. Give courage to survivors when they are asked to testify against their captors. Father, we pray for their deliverance. Break the chains of exploitation and bondage that hold them captive. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, expose and dismantle the networks of trafficking and those who profit from this evil.

Let Your light shine in the darkest places, bringing freedom and hope to these women. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Sis. Maria Martin First Lady Mt. Pisgah AME Church Jersey City, New Jersey





Day 12 Ethiopia: Psalm 34:19

ord, we come before You this morning with heavy hearts, carrying the burdens of women, girls, and their families in Ethiopia who are victims of the evils of human trafficking. Your Word says the righteous may have troubles, but the Lord will deliver them. We trust in Your power to protect, deliver, and restore.

Lord, we call out the systems perpetuating this

Lord, we call out the systems perpetuating this injustice and place them on the altar today. In the name of Jesus, we declare that the chains of poverty, lack of education, and harmful cultural practices are broken. Please grant discernment to those searching for a way out to see the deceitful hearts that approach them with false promises.

Bring stability and peace to conflict-ridden areas, ending the displacement that makes them vulnerable and easily accessible.

Father, strengthen law enforcement with wisdom and integrity to dismantle trafficking networks, and may they enforce the law with compassion and justice. Allow nations to work together to eradicate traffickers and prevent them from crossing borders to continue their oppressive practices.

Raise and sustain advocates who fight for survivors and provide them with abundant resources for rehabilitation and reintegration. Heal these women and girls wholly — physically, emotionally, and mentally. Restore their dignity and fill them with hope to live and thrive. May their hearts be free from malice toward their oppressors as You pour out Your peace upon them.

Lord, turn the hearts of every perpetrator bitter toward their actions. Please bring them to their knees in repentance, leading them to release their captives and return these women and girls safely home. May we all see Your heart of restoration. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Apostle M. Queeni Green Tributary Global Network, Founder Rivers of Life, Senior Pastor Freehold, New Jersey



Day 13 Ghana: John: 10:10 & Psalm 91:11-12

ong before girls develop the ability to think critically, some are sent or born in the Shrines and subjected to ritual sexual servitude or human trafficking. Lord, hear their words that have been graciously shared with me during counseling sessions and may their courage be acknowledged:

- I was about 7 . . . my family told me I was going to visit an uncle. I never came back.
- They told me a family member needed help cleaning her house. I never came back.
- I got five minutes to visit with my mother every month.
- I became pregnant while I was in the shrine.
- Different men would "sleep" with me.
- I slept on the ground; bugs crawled over me.
- They made me sit outside for three days with nothing to eat.
- I was told my grandmother offended the gods, so I had to go.
- When I was praying to the gods, I felt inside like something wasn't right.
- I was only given a white cloth to wear around me. I wasn't even allowed to speak.
- I lost the hearing in my ear while I was there (shrine).
- We read a "bible" but it's not the Bible you know of.
- She (market woman) told me I didn't belong there. So we planned; she hid me til early the next morning so I could get away.
- I thought I was going to have a better life.
- She (trafficker) took my passport so I couldn't leave.



- I want to know more about this Jesus.
- Who is Jesus?
- I just need help!

Rovaughna Richardson, LPC Global Servant-Leader, Ghana Esteem Resources Africa www.esteemresourcesafrica.org Accra, Ghana



Day 14 Guyana: Psalm 89:1-2

Mighty God, the Creator of all things: We come to You lifting up the concerns of law enforcement in Guyana. Our hearts break when we think about the continued sexual servitude and human trafficking happening against women and children.

God, we know that some laws have been implemented but we are praying through intercession that You will intervene to provide the additional resources needed to strengthen the laws, policies, and penalties for those involved in these awful acts of modern-day slavery.

O Lord, these are our brothers and sisters and we speak life to their spirits. Remind them that You still reign and hold all power. Your faithfulness will continue to be their shield.

Because You are so faithful help us to keep our unwavering faith and

continue praying in Your name:

- Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our healer
- Jehovah Shalom, the Lord of peace
- Jehovah Raah, the Lord our shepherd
- Jehovah Tsidkenu, the Lord our righteousness
- Jehovah Shammah, the Lord is here

Father, we cry out to You and believe You for the amazing outcome. It is so. Amen.

Min. Brenda Troy 2nd VP, Lott Carey WISE

Director of Spiritual Life New Salem Missionary Baptist Church Columbus, Ohio

Day 15 India: Proverbs 31:31

e come to You,
dear Lord,
perplexed and
troubled. The
Holy Bible tells us
to honor women
and, but do we in
ndia value mothers, sisters, and wives? Sadly, this

India value mothers, sisters, and wives? Sadly, this is not so.

The birth of a girl-child is far from being a gift from the Almighty. The mother who gives birth to a daughter is looked down upon and may be compelled to go through childbirth over and over again making her body suffer multiple times until she has a son as an heir. During this time, she is still the last person to eat the meal she has cooked. More often than not, her share of the meal is the least when she deserves the most during pregnancy.

Save the expectant mother, dear Lord, make her family give her the support and sustenance she needs for herself and her unborn child.

The Indian girl child is born into a world in which she is discriminated against and is not considered an equal with her male siblings. From a young age, she is compelled to do menial tasks; often she is not educated. She grows up accepting exploitation of all kinds, even the worse kind of sexual harassment which can begin in her own home by relatives. She sees her mother go through the trauma of physical assault and mental torture, believing that this is her lot as well. Submissively, she enters marital life without any consideration of her wish and will. Help her parents to acknowledge her needs and her preferences.

Save the women of our country dear Lord. Make the girl child grow up to be an emancipated woman who believes in herself and is ready to stand up for her rights. Give us, as a race, Your wisdom and strength that we might motivate our daughters to raise their voices against oppression and unjust practices that make her vulnerable and traps her into a life of exploitation and abuse.

Inspire us to be advocates of change that we might have the courage to ensure that we get the respect that we and our daughters deserve.

Grant courage and wisdom to those in power — the government, law enforcement officials, and community leaders — so that they may enact and enforce laws that protect vulnerable women. May they work conscientiously to remove all oppression and promote social justice for all. Ensure that perpetrators are made accountable for their evil deeds.

Help us to stand in solidarity with those who have faced and continue to face physical and mental abuse. Help all Indians to wake up to the reality that the exploitation of Indian women, irrespective of



caste, creed, and religion is worse than hunger and homelessness. Only a collective effort can bring about positive changes in the lives of all Indian women.

Help us, God, to sincerely commit ourselves towards making our country follow the principles of love, justice, and compassion so that all Indian women are treated with respect and dignity.

Mrs. D.A. Tressler Chairperson and Director Somerville Schools Greater Noida, India



A prayer for rescue from the trauma and healing for the soul

o the God of Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, Mary, and the countless women of the Bible who suffered from mental, physical, spiritual, sexual, and emotional abuse — many of whom were unnamed — we thank You that they did not go unhealed.

By Rev. Thurselle C. Williams

I pray this prayer of faith for the daughters who are continually learning to live not only through their experiences but also to heal from the trauma inflicted by aggressors and oppressors on this earth.

I pray for every girl and every woman who is learning to move beyond what has occurred in their lives.

I lift up girls all around the world; those being victimized in 2025 and those who have lived past the day of their victimization. I pray that they will heal from their trauma physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. I ask that they discover safe places in their homes, communities, churches, and school systems where they can relearn what healthy relationships look like — both in the natural and in the spiritual.

I pray that they will heal from their trauma and recognize that their healed souls are the purest offering they could ever give to a holy God. Yet, for as many as find themselves in the place of healing, there are those who quietly carry the weight of trauma suffered many years ago. I pray that they will read this prayer — and others like it — and see that it is possible to heal

I pray for a spirit of learning and unlearning, so they may overcome the teachings of their oppressors, declare the harm that was done to them, and claim the healing they deserve.

In the strong name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Lott Carey Herald/Spring 2025

Rev. Thurselle C. Williams, M. Div., is Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church of East Orange in East Orange, New Jersey



ord, we know we serve a God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we ask or think according to the power that works within us.

It is in the power of God the Holy Spirit that we bring before You the children of Italy, and graciously accept being their intercessors. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We understand You to be a God of protection, one who will shield the children from harm and provide guidance in difficult times. We pray You grant protection daily.

We pray for them to personally get to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, who will provide for and support them, and foster their growth and well-being.

Shield their innocence during times of sexual servitude, child prostitution, and the ungodly, dehumanizing, and demonic system of Trokosi.

We thank You God for Your Word in Luke 6:36 that teaches us to be compassionate, just as Your Father is compassionate. 1 Peter 3:8 further admonishes us again "Finally, all of You, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" and Psalm 103:8 reaffirms the essence of our prayer for the children of Italy by revealing to us that "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Sis. Lynnette Richardson 1st VP Lott Carey WISE

Elect Lady Little Grove Baptist Church Suffolk, Virginia





Day 18 Jamaica: Micah 6:8



eavenly Father, we come before You with heavy hearts for the women and girls of Jamaica, whose lives have been stolen, whose spirits have been broken, and whose voices have been silenced under the guise of distorted religion.

Lord, You are a God of justice, love, and truth, and we cry out for Your divine intervention. We cry out for our sisters, Your daughters, trapped in the chains of ritualistic servitude, manipulated by those who misuse Your name to oppress them.

Comfort their hearts, Lord, and remind them of the worth and the freedom You desire for all Your children. We pray for courage and strength for these women and girls that they may find the power to rise above the darkness and reclaim their lives. Surround them with compassionate allies, brave voices who will advocate for their rights, protect their dignity, and amplify their stories.

Lord, bring light to the hidden places where these injustices are occuring in Jamaica right now. Expose the wickedness of those who exploit faith for fear, control, and oppression. Let Your truth shine so brightly that no deception can hide from it.

We pray for swift and unwavering justice to hold perpetrators accountable and to dismantle these systems of abuse. Lord, grant wisdom to government leaders, spiritual leaders, communities, and families to reject these distortions of religion and to turn their hearts to You. May Your Holy Spirit move powerfully across Jamaica, tearing down strongholds, transforming hearts, and restoring hope. We cry out to You in the name of Jesus, the great liberator. Amen.

Rev. Laverne Mitchell Westbury Divine Church of God Westbury, New York



Day 19 *Kenya: James 5:4*

ord, help us reform and transform: We wish to be treated kindly, but many have failed to do that to those around us as Luke 6:31 emphasizes. Lord, forgive us and help us reform and transform.

We have oppressed those that work for us and failed to pay them their dues on time, and sometimes totally. Yet, we have been warned in Leviticus 19:13. Lord, forgive us and help us reform and transform.

Directly or indirectly, we have oppressed those poor and needy, related to us or not. This is frowned upon in Deuteronomy 24:14. Lord, forgive us and help us reform and transform.

The wages of the labourers which we kept back by fraud, are crying out against us, and the cries of such workers, as James 5:4 reminds us, have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. Lord, forgive us and help us

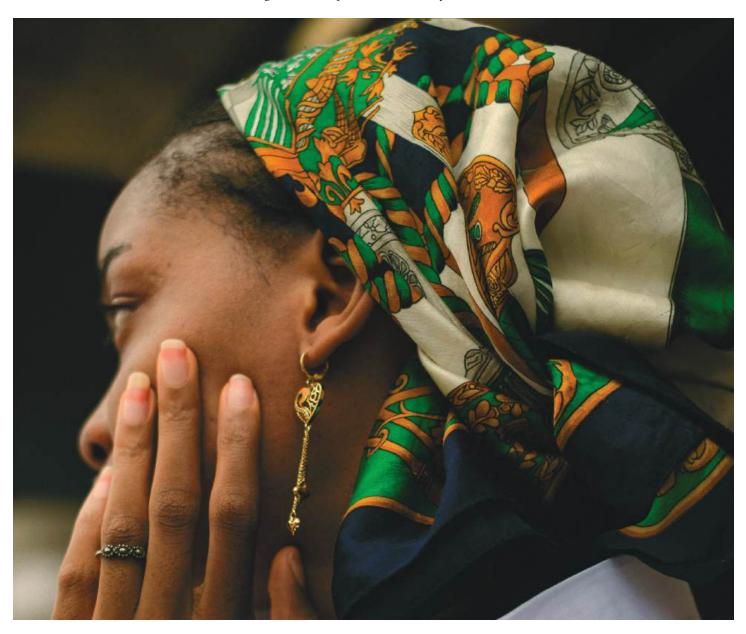
reform and transform.

Our comfort and progress has come at someone's expense. We talk of "human rights" but silently discriminate and have not included the rights and lives of all humans. Lord, forgive us and help us reform and transform.

I purposely do, continually, that which I would want done to me. Encourage all to do likewise.

Help me, Lord, so that You will tell me, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Rev. Dawn Gikandi Church Minister and Schools' Chaplain Presbyterian Church of East Africa Nairobi, Kenya







Day 20 Liberia: Luke 4:18

Yourself. You are glorious, excellent, awesome, and mighty. You have no equal.

According to Your Word in Luke 4:18, You have called Your church to preach, serve, heal, deliver, and to set the oppressed free. This can only be a reality when Your Holy Spirit takes charge of us when we avail ourselves for kingdom purposes. Thank

ear God, thank You for just being God all by

charge of us when we avail ourselves for kingdom purposes. Thank You for empowering us to live Your purpose for our lives and for those entrusted into our care.

Gracious God, there are still women and girls who are being oppressed in the name of religion. Women and girls are forced to serve at shrines and oracles in the name of religious beliefs, against their will.

While such is going on, there are other people with voices to speak out and stand up for those being oppressed by religion, yet they choose to be quiet. It is disappointing and painful but God we have our trust in You to deliver and set Your people free. We may not have the skills or the know-how; however, our eyes are on You for we know that the Egyptians that see now we shall see no more.

As we await Your divine intervention, we want to say thank You and to You be the glory. Amen.

Rev. Monen Jacquelynn Duoe Associate Pastor Effort Baptist Church Paynesville, Liberia



Day 21 Madagascar: Isaiah 1:17



ear Lord, help us to recognize the deep-rooted traditions that perpetuate cycles of injustice. We pray for the strength and courage of those who are working tirelessly to bring awareness to ritualistic sexual servitude and advocate for the rights and welfare of the individuals affected.

You are a God of justice and righteousness. Give strength to people who investigate and prosecute traffickers. Encourage them when they are weak. Grant courage and support to survivors when they are asked to testify against their former captors. Let Your justice prevail.

We ask for Your divine intervention to illuminate the minds and hearts of community leaders, so they may embrace change and reject harmful customs. Surround those who suffer with the love of supportive families, friends, and advocates who can stand by them in their time of need.

May Your spirit of justice guide our global family to speak out against all forms of exploitation and to fight for the oppressed. Instill in us a deep-seated passion to protect those who cannot defend themselves and to work toward a brighter future filled with equity, respect, and understanding.

We pray for healing for those whose lives have been marked by pain and suffering. May they find solace in Your love and strength, renewing their spirit and guiding them toward a path of liberation and restoration. In Your compassionate name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton President Emerita Lott Carey WISE

Min. of Global Impact and Justice Fountain Baptist Church Summit, New Jersey



Day 22 Malawi: 2 Thessalonians 3:3

ear Lord, hear the cries of the girls, women, and children in Malawi who are subjugated to cultural practices that harm them. Be their protector, their provider, and their strong refuge. Surround them with Your love, shielding them from harm and restoring their dignity and hope. We pray against harmful initiation camps in Malawi, particularly those that force girls into degrading sexual practices. Break

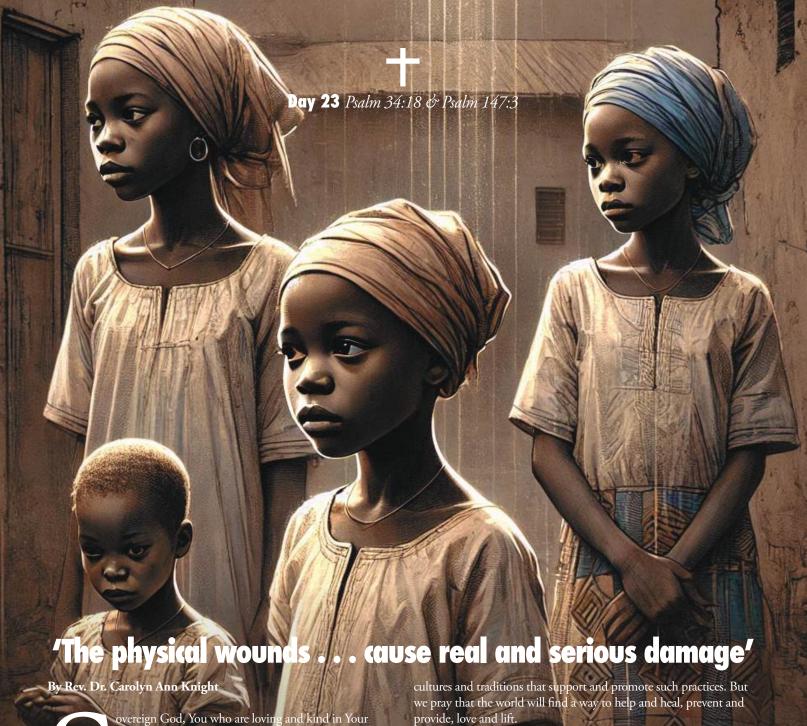
the chains of early marriages that rob young girls of their childhood and future, often for the benefit of their families. Father, open the eyes and soften the hearts of the adults in their lives — parents, guardians, and community leaders — so they may rise in courage to defend their children even when cultural forces oppose them.

We pray for local chiefs and leaders to take bold stances against these practices, becoming champions of justice and advocates for the vulnerable. Stir within them a commitment to protect the girls under their care and to dismantle traditions that exploit instead of nurture.

Lord, let Your church in Malawi stand as a beacon of truth and love. Equip Your people to be the voice, the hands, and the feet of justice. Let Your Word of freedom and hope resound in every community, transforming hearts and minds.

Be the voice of the voiceless, the advocate of the abandoned, and the redeemer of the lost in Malawi. Let the light of Your love bring healing, hope, and restoration to every girl and child affected by these injustices. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.





compassionate grace and tender mercy, please receive this prayer on behalf of women, boys, and girls in lands whose practices inflict physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual pain upon the most vulnerable among us. We are aware that the physical wounds and scars are the outward manifestation of the pain, trauma, and abuse that is carried on the inside. The physical wounds that cause real and serious damage to the reproductive health of women and girls, often preventing childbirth and nursing; making them susceptible to chronic illness and disease are the result of oppressive and destructive systems, practices, and behaviors that are often normalized by culture, society,

We pray, gracious God, for the cessation of systemic structures that harm those whom You love. We pray for direct and divine intervention to bring about deliberate actions that will cause this gender violence and abuse to come to an end. We are aware of the complex nature of

and political institutions through patriarchy, misogyny, and gender bias.

provide, love and lift.

We know, O God, that violence and pain inflicted upon individuals diminishes, degrades, and denigrates us all. Their pain is our pain. Their hurt is our hurt. Their wounds are our wounds. We further believe that there is no safety until we all are safe. There is no peace until we all have peace. Move us to act on behalf of the least among us.

We pray that all those of us who believe in justice will rise up, stand up, and speak up against those who will do Your precious creation harm. Most of all, heal the hurts, mend the wounds and grant comfort and peace to those most desperately in need. In Your loving favor, God, please hear our prayer. We ask because we know that You are both able and willing. Ase and Amen.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight is an Itinerant Preacher from Smyrna, Georgia.





Day 25 Nigeria: Hosea 4:6

ost Holy and All-Wise God, Our Father, we unite our hearts and minds in prayer for those who endure the torment of ritualistic sexual servitude in Nigeria and around the world. In the face of such profound disrespect and suffering, we seek Your guidance and strength.

We pray for the individuals trapped in this cycle of exploitation that they may find hope amidst despair and the courage to break free from the chains that bind them. Surround them with Your protection and grant them the support they need to heal and reclaim their lives.

May we, as a community of committed believers in Christ, rise with compassion and solidarity, amplifying the voices of the vulnerable and advocating for their rights. Inspire us to take action, whether through raising awareness, supporting survivor initiatives, or standing against injustice in all its forms.

We ask for wisdom for those in positions of authority and influence that they may enact laws and policies that protect the most marginalized among us. Prompt them to be vessels of change, ensuring that justice prevails and that no one suffers in silence.

Together, let us build a future where every human being is honored, respected, and free from fear. May our collective efforts lead to healing, restoration, and a society built on love, dignity, and justice for all. We claim this done in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.



Carol White Mohamed President Emerita Lott Carey WISE

A Shepherd's Care Lay Minister Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Day 26 South Africa: Isaiah 9:4

eavenly Father, we come before You with heavy hearts, burdened by the darkness of human trafficking that plagues our world, and in particular, South Africa. We lift up the victims who are caught in this horrific bondage—those who have been stripped of their dignity, their freedom, and their hope. Lord, protect them from harm, and guide them to safety.

We ask for Your intervention to break the chains of those who are being exploited and abused. Bring healing to their bodies, minds, and spirits, and restore their sense of worth and belonging. May they find refuge in Your loving arms, where justice, mercy, and grace abound. May this stretch over each person in this land, especially in our communities where our people are not protected.

Father, we also pray for those who perpetrate these heinous crimes. We ask for Your mercy to transform their hearts, and for justice to be swiftly served. Raise up leaders, law enforcement, and organizations

dedicated to combating this evil, and grant them wisdom, strength, and compassion in their effort.

We pray for the South African government and all those in positions of power so they may take swift action to protect the vulnerable and create systems of support for survivors. Let Your light shine upon the darkness, and may truth and justice prevail.

Lord, we trust in Your power to heal, restore, and bring justice. Help us to be vigilant in our prayers, and to take action where we can to stand against this injustice. May Your love and truth bring freedom to those who are oppressed. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Annelize Kotze
Curator, Social History Collections
Iziko Museums of South Africa
Cape Town, South Africa
President, Commonwealth Association of Museums
Winnipeg, Canada



Day 27 South Sudan: Matthew 7:12







Day 29 Togo: Galatians 5:16-21

ur Father, we lift up the nation of Togo into Your loving and powerful hands. We thank You for the beautiful beaches and richness of this land, for its vibrant culture, its hardworking people, and its abundant resources.

We praise You for the blessings You have poured out and the resilience of this nation throughout its history.

Lord, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom to be upon Togo's leaders. May they lead with hearts of integrity and a vision for justice, unity, and peace. May they serve with humility and make the well-being of all citizens a priority — from the cities to the most remote villages.

We pray for economic growth that benefits all people, especially the poor and marginalized. Bless the farmers, entrepreneurs, and workers of Togo, and open doors for opportunity, innovation, and sustainable development.

Father, we lift up the children and youth of Togo. Protect them, nurture their dreams, and equip them with education and skills to build a bright future. May they grow to be a generation that seeks truth, justice, and love.

We also pray for healing from the practice of Trokosi. We pray for reconciliation where there is division. We pray for protection from violence, corruption, and natural disasters. Lord, strengthen the Church in Togo, that it may be a beacon of hope and love. Empower believers to share the light of Christ and to serve their communities with compassion and generosity.

May Your Spirit dwell richly in Togo, and may Your blessings abound. Togo belongs to You, and we trust You to lead this nation into a future filled with Your grace, mercy, and prosperity.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

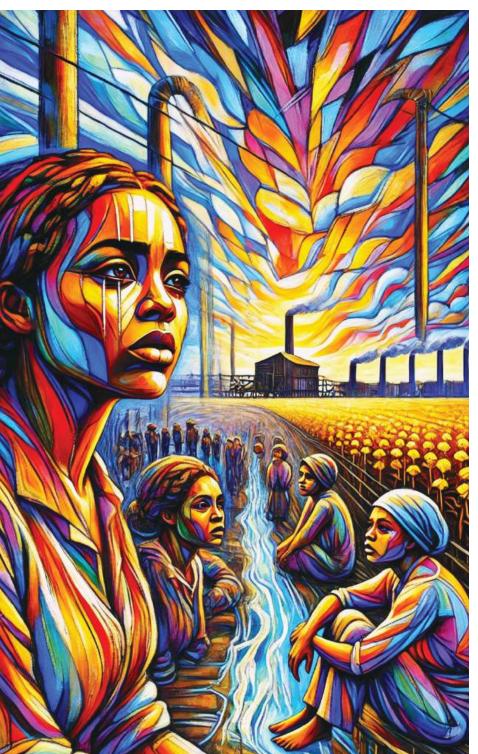
Lady Debra Garner President Emerita Lott Carey WISE

First Lady Elba Missionary Baptist Church Gretna, Virginia





'We pray the Holy Spirit build a hedge of protection around them'



By Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart

with Your light and love. Your light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

We come before You with heavy hearts, calling upon Your grace to shine upon all who have been impacted by the practice of Trokosi. We ask for Your healing touch upon the mind,

pirit of Love and Light, You surround us

body, and soul of the young girls who have been dedicated to shrines as the atonement for sins of family members. We pray that they may find strength, hope, and freedom from the burdens of ritualistic sexual servitude.

We pray the Holy Spirit build a hedge of protection around them.

May Your love and light illuminate their paths and guide them toward restoration, dignity, and empowerment. Surround them with supportive communities that uplift and cherish them as Your beloved daughters — created in Your image, worthy of honor, dignity and the love that reflect Your perfect care and compassion. Raise up allies who will stand with them and help them reclaim their identities and destinies free from the burden of sins that are not their own.

Give wisdom and understanding to families and communities that they may recognize the sacred worth of every individual. Help them to seek reconciliation through love and forgiveness rather than through harmful rituals and traditions. We pray for a transformative spirit to move within our societies, leading to the abandonment of practices that cause suffering, oppression, and sorrow. May compassion replace judgment, and may pathways of understanding be built where division and conflict once thrived.

In Your mercy, we ask for the courage to advocate for change, to protest and challenge injustices, and to foster a culture of respect and equality for all. May joy, hope, and healing abound in the hearts of those touched by these experiences, and may Your peace reign in their lives now and forevermore. In the name of Jesus our liberator, emancipator, and Lord. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart is the former President of Lott Carey and Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.



Day 31 Zimbabwe: Psalm 147:3

od, we confess to You our collusion with the habits of violence in our Zimbabwean cultures — our silence, our fears, and our complicity in the violence suffered by women. Forgive us,

Lord, we pray and give us grace to stand without fear. We need to remember that You did not give us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

God, we cry out to You for justice for our Zimbabwean women and girls. Help us to eradicate roots of oppression and discrimination. Inspire us to break down the structures that silence and disempower women and girls. Make us united in condemning abuse in all its forms.

We believe in Philippians 4:13, which says we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Give us strength, Lord, as Zimbabwean women and girls; we need grace that is sufficient and peace that surpasses all understanding. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Sandra Mabu African Baptist Churches in Zimbabwe Marlborough, Harare, Zimbabwe





8201 Corporate Drive Suite 1245 Landover, MD 20785-2230 LottCarey.org















31 Days of Prayer

March 1-31, 2025, 6:00 a.m. daily. The dial-in number is 267-807-9611. Access Code: 172051.

LOTT CAREY

2025 Spring Missions Conference

March 20-21, 2025 Trinity Baptist Church Columbus, Ohio

District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) Resurrection Monday Services

Monday, April 21, 2025, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Both services will be held in-person.

20th Anti-Trafficking Prayer Service and 4th Jumping4Justice Double Dutch Revival

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, New Jersey

Annual Youth Seminar

June 21-25, 2025, Winston-Salem State University Winston-Salem, North Carolina

128th Lott Carey Annual Session

August 11-14, 2025 Marriott Downtown Philadelphia Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Calling All Giving Circle Leaders

Please contact Rev. Dr. Angelita Clifton at POAC@aol.com for the 2025 J4J 100K Challenge

